

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 2-6, 8, and 9 are presently pending. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2-6 and 8 have been amended. Claim 10 has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview conducted on March 26, 2010. During the interview, the Examiner confirmed that the present Office Action is a Non-Final Action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Page 2 of the Office Action sets forth "Claims 1-4, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funahashi (US PGPub 2003/0185415)...in view of White (US Patent 3,862,376...)". Page 6 of the Office Action sets forth "Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funahashi...in view of White...in view of Sato et al. (US Patent 5,793,002...)". Page 7 of the Office Action sets forth "Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funahashi...in view of Proni (US Patent 5,734,132...)". Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over these references for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, thus obviating the rejection of claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 5.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 5, includes features which are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art, namely:

...a diaphragm...including an engaging portion integrally formed with the diaphragm, the engaging portion extending in a substantially perpendicular direction from a rear surface of the diaphragm; and...

...a suspension holder extending downward from a middle portion...on the rear surface of the diaphragm, the suspension holder being integrated with the diaphragm via a coupling portion which engages the engaging portion....

This means that the diaphragm has an engaging portion that extends from a rear surface of the diaphragm in a substantially perpendicular direction. The

suspension holder has a coupling portion that engages the engaging portion. This feature is found in the originally filed application at page 5, line 25 to page 6, line 6, and FIG. 3. No new matter is added.

The Office Action acknowledges that "Funahashi does not explicitly teach 'the diagram including an engaging portion integrally formed with the diaphragm'; the suspension holder being integrated with the diaphragm 'via a coupling portion which engages the engaging portion.'" Applicant agrees, and respectfully submits that the addition of Proni fails to make up for the deficiencies of Funahashi with respect to claim 5.

Proni is directed to a concentric tube suspension system for loudspeakers. As illustrated in FIG. 3, for example, Proni discloses a loudspeaker 10 including a diaphragm 12 and a stabilizer 40. Proni discloses that the diaphragm includes a cylindrical elbow 15. The stabilizer 40 is attached to the diaphragm 12 at the cylindrical elbow 15 using adhesive. See Proni at column 5, line 35 to column 6, line 22.

The Office Action indicates that the cylindrical elbow 15 of Proni corresponds to the engaging portion of claim 5. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Proni fails to disclose, teach, or suggest that the cylindrical elbow extends from the rear surface of diaphragm 12 in a substantially perpendicular direction. This is different from claim 5, which requires an engaging portion that extends from a rear surface of the diaphragm in a substantially perpendicular direction.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Funahashi in view of Proni fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "a diaphragm...including an engaging portion integrally formed with the diaphragm, the engaging portion extending in a substantially perpendicular direction from a rear surface of the diaphragm; and...a suspension holder extending downward from a middle portion...on the rear surface of the diaphragm, the suspension holder being integrated with the diaphragm via a coupling portion which engages the engaging portion," as recited in claim 5.

It is because Applicant's claimed invention includes the above features that the following advantages are achieved. "[B]y engaging suspension holder 13 into engaging portion 12a provided on the rear surface of diaphragm 12, accurate

positioning can be carried out." See the originally filed application at page 6, lines 24-26.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 5 is allowable over the cited art. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 8 and 9 include all of the features of claim 5, from which they depend. Applicant respectfully submits that the addition of White and Sato fails to make up for the deficiencies of Funahashi with respect to claim 5.

White is directed to a cone for a loudspeaker. As illustrated in FIG. 1, for example, White discloses a loudspeaker 10 having a cone body 30. Cone body 30 is attached at a periphery 31 to a surround 40. Cone body 30 is also attached at a throat portion 32 to a spider 70. Spider 70 is for engaging and supporting the throat portion 32. See White at column 3, line 58 to column 4, line 18; column 5, lines 16-35; and FIG. 1. White fails to disclose, teach, or suggest an engaging portion extending from a rear surface of cone body 30 in a substantially perpendicular direction.

Sato is directed to a loudspeaker diaphragm. Sato discloses a vibrating diaphragm 1 manufactured from polypropylene resin. See Sato at column 3, lines 32-38. Sato fails to disclose, teach, or suggest an engaging portion extending from a rear surface of diaphragm 1 in a substantially perpendicular direction.

Accordingly, Funahashi in view of Proni, White, and Sato fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of claim 5. Thus, claims 2-4, 8 and 9 are also allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 5. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 2-4, 8 and 9 is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 includes features similar to the allowable features discussed above with respect to allowable claim 5. Specifically, claim 6 recites "integrally molding the diaphragm and the engaging portion such that the engaging portion extends in a substantially perpendicular direction from the rear surface of the diaphragm [and] coupling the coupling portion of the molded suspension holder to the engaging portion

of the molded diaphragm....” Thus, claim 6 is also allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 5. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

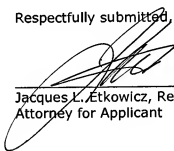
New Claim

Claim 10 includes all of the features of claim 5, from which it depends. Thus, claim 10 is also allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 5.

Applicant submits that claim 10 includes additional features which are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art, namely: “the engaging portion comprises a pair of annular projections extending from the rear surface of the diaphragm, the pair of annular projections defining an annular gap, the coupling portion of the suspension holder being positioned within the annular gap.” Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable over the cited art for at least this additional reason.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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